

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
September 25, 2006

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

Absent: Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2006 meeting.

Motion so passed.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Haddad requested a moment of silence in recognition of lives lost by military personnel in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Doug Kaufman, 149 Birch Road, speaking for himself and on behalf of his neighbors, addressed the Council regarding the disturbances in the neighborhood caused by student partying. Mr. Kaufman outlined the problem and suggested ways to address the situation. Comments attached.

Lee Williams, University of Connecticut Dean of Students, assured the Town Council and residents that the University is working diligently to address the problem. Ms. Williams emphasized the need for communication between UConn and the State and Town Police. She noted that a number of the more serious incidents have been caused by nonstudents and urged the Council to do what they can to hold unscrupulous landlords accountable.

James Knox, 148A Birch Road, applauded the idea of publicizing statistics that deal with the results of student code violations and urged additional police coverage in the neighborhoods. He also agreed with members who feel that UConn must change its current image as a party destination - a place to come to party.

Council members noted that the recently approved budget would provide an additional officer starting half way through the current year and that the newly enacted housing code should help ameliorate the situation. The Council expressed concern that when the problem of excessive partying is squelched in one part of town it intensifies elsewhere and that the strict enforcement of the drinking age on campus has pushed the behavior into the surrounding community. Council suggestions for action include: sharing statistical information on breaches of the code of conduct with the community, running a series of ads in the Daily Campus,

the reallocation of police coverage to the most affected times, more funding for DUI checkpoints, the revitalization of the affected neighborhoods, holding news conferences that emphasize the police presence, and increased communication between the State Police and the UConn Police. Council members complimented the police noting that they are working very hard and promised to continue to look for solutions.

Nancy Silander, 30 Birch Road, agreed with the comments of her neighbors and urged the town to extend the sidewalk to North Eagleville Road.

Kathleen Knecht, 137 Birch Road, asked the town's assistance in keeping Halloween safe for the neighborhood children.

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- V. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Appointment of Town Manager

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to authorize Matthew W. Hart to begin his services as Town Manager of the Town of Mansfield on October 4, 2006, and to implement his employment agreement with the Town on that date.

Motion so passed

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk, administered the oath of office to Matthew W. Hart.

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad congratulated Mr. Hart and thanked the outgoing Town Manager, Martin Berliner for his service to the town. He invited all present to join the Council in a thank you celebration.

2. Fenton River

Information only

3. Community/Campus Relations

Matt Hart updated members on actions being taken to address student behavior. Senior UConn personnel and town officials have met to develop a plan of action. Town staff has also met with representatives from Carriage House and ING to discuss landlord expectations. ING has presented a draft proposal that staff is in the process of reviewing. Council members discussed the level of police staffing and the culture of alcohol on campus.

- VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Resolutions Accepting LHS Associates and the Interactive Voting Systems Voting Machines

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to approve the following resolutions:
RESOLVED,

WHEREAS, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 has developed a uniform set of requirements for each voting system used in an election for federal office;

WHEREAS, included among the requirements of the Help America Vote Act is a provision that every polling place must maintain at least one voting machine created to ensure private and independent voting capabilities for persons with disabilities;

WHEREAS, the "IVS voting system" has been recognized to be in compliance with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act, including the provision of accessibility for persons with disabilities;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut has used federal funds advanced through the Help America Vote Act to purchase voting machines in compliance with this said accessibility provision of the Help America Vote Act, these being the "IVS voting system";

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield is a municipality in the State of Connecticut;

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield through its elected officials and the employees thereof, is responsible for conducting primaries and elections, federal and otherwise, within its borders;

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield, through its legislative body is responsible for providing suitable voting machines for use within its own municipality;

THEREFORE, the legislative body of the Town of Mansfield hereby accepts ownership of the said "IVS voting system" and will begin to use said voting machines with the election to be held on November 7, 2006.

RESOLVED,

WHEREAS, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 has developed a uniform set of requirements for each voting system used in an election for federal office;

WHEREAS, the Election Assistance Commission has determined that lever voting machines are not compliant with the requirements of the Help America Vote Act;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut has used federal funds advanced through the Help America Vote Act to purchase voting machines in compliance with this law, these being the "LHS optical scan voting machines";

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield is a municipality in the State of Connecticut;

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield, through its elected officials and the employees thereof, is responsible for conducting primaries and elections, federal and otherwise, within its borders;

WHEREAS, the Town of Mansfield, through its legislative body is responsible for providing suitable voting machines for use within its own municipality;

THEREFORE, the legislative body of the Town of Mansfield hereby accepts ownership

of the said "LHS optical scan voting machines" and will begin to use said voting machines with the election of November 7, 2006.

Motion so passed.

5. Budget Transfers for FY 2005/2006

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective September 25, 2006, to approve the Budget Transfers for FY 2005/06, as presented by the Director of Finance in his correspondence dated August 25, 2006.

Council members requested that an explanation of the fee waiver policy be an item on the next agenda.

Motion so passed.

Ms. Koehn requested that discussion of storm drains be added to the agenda. Agenda item 7a regarding storm drains was added to the agenda by consensus.

6. Closeouts for Capital Project Fund

Postponed until next meeting.

7. Draft DEP Analysis of Eagleville Brook

Ms. Koehn moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective September 25, 2006, to authorize the Mayor to co-endorse a letter with the PZC Chairman that acknowledges the receipt of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's draft analysis of Eagleville Brook and pledges the Town's cooperation in improving storm water management in this watershed.

Motion so passed.

7a. Storm Drains

A discussion regarding the dumping of wash water (supernant), a byproduct of storm drain cleaning, by UConn contractors into local streams ensued. The DEP is investigating and the town staff is assisting where possible. Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, has spoken to the DEP investigators and with the Physical Plant staff at the University. They have agreed that this will not occur next year.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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Caroline Redding, Chair of the Committee on Committees, made the following recommendations for appointments:

Mansfield Advocates for Children

Kathleen Mahoney 3-year term

Housing Code Board of Appeals

Francis J Halle 3-year term

Agatha Hoover 2-year term

Richard Pellegrine 1-year term

Robert Kremer alternate 3-year term

Brian McCarthy alternate 3-year term

The Committee also recommended to the Council that 2 alternate positions be added to the Conservation Commission and to refer the matter to the Town Attorney for review.

Motion so passed.

Ms. Redding also noted that the volunteer web page is ready for posting and that the Volunteer Recognition event is planned for May 19, 2007.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

X. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Martin Berliner, Town Manager, complimented all those who made the fireworks and the festival on the green such a success.

Charter Revision will be meeting on Tuesday the 26th.

The groundbreaking for the Mansfield Community Center connector will take place on October 3rd. This is the first "spade turn" of the downtown partnership project.

The next meeting of the School Building Committee will be October 4th.

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

8. Chronicle "A Great Weekend"

9. Chronicle "Landlords Call New Regs Unfair"

10. Daily Campus "Festival On Green Celebrates Mansfield"

11. Storrs Center Concept Plan and Timeline

12. Town Owned Land and Conservation Easements as of August 1, 2006

13. Willimantic River Review – Fall 2006

14. WINCOG re: 2004-2005 Median Home Sales Prices Compared to Median Income

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move into Executive Session.
Motion so passed.

Present: Blair Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

Also Present: Martin Berliner, Town Manager

Personnel Issues

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move out of Executive Session.
Motion so passed.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Motion so passed.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk